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Health and Government
Operations Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

CHAIR KELLEY
VICE CHAIR FELDMAN

**HOUSE BILL 1370– ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AWARENESS FUND –
ANNUAL FUNDING AND EXTENSION**

SUPPORT

March 31, 2022

Good Afternoon Chairman Kelley and Vice Chair Feldman. I am here today to ask for your support for HB 1370 – Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Fund – Annual Funding and Extension. HB 1370 Reauthorizes and extends funding for Maryland's organ donor registry to raise awareness of organ donation across the State. While it does not appear so on the MGA website, this bill is a crossfile of Senator Klausmeier's bill, SB574 which passed out of this Committee, and passed the Senate unanimously.

The program been annually funded at \$400,000 since inception in 2007 and this bill increases funding to \$500,000 and authorizes the funding for another five years. Donate Life Maryland (DLM) is the state-authorized nonprofit organization responsible for managing the Maryland Donor Registry. DLM works closely with the two federally designated nonprofit organ procurement organizations serving Maryland, The Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland (LLF) and the Washington Regional Transplant Community (WRTC). In addition to managing and operating the Maryland Donor Registry, DLM, in partnership with The LLF and WRTC, helps spread the word about organ, eye and tissue donation and how to register as a donor in Maryland. Since 2009, Donate Life Maryland has registered over 2.2 Million Donors and provides outreach and education on the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation.

In Maryland, organ demand has steadily increased over the past 20 years, and the need for Donate Life's work is more necessary than ever. For this reason I am asking for a favorable report on HB 1370. Thank you for your time.